MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
FEB '97
361
DAREDEVIL
THE BLACK WIDOW--
--STRIKES BACK!
DIRECT EDITION
$1.50 US $2.10 CAN

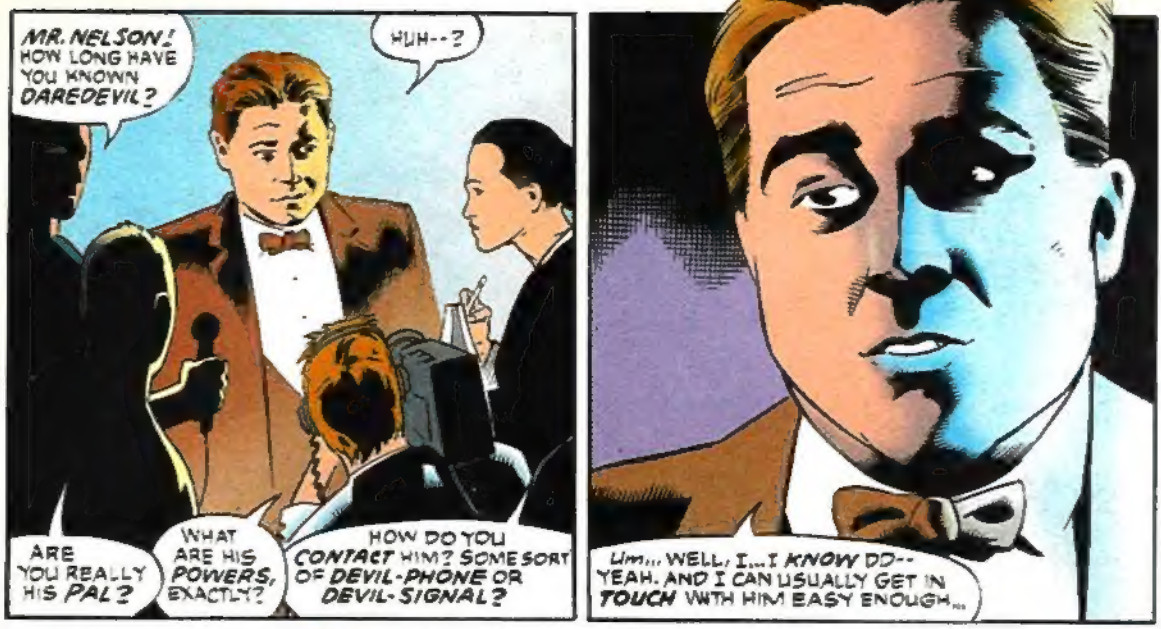
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR, A WOMAN OF MYSTERY, AND SOME...
...UNFINISHED BUSINESS
THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SUPER HERO.
THAT'S EASY-- THE THRILL OF COMMUTING.
NO WAITING. NO CROWDS. NO GRIDLOCK.
NO NET.
NOTHING BUT FORTY STORIES OF AIR BETWEEN ME AND THE PAVEMENT.
CARL KESEL: WRITER
CARY NORD: PENCILER
MATT RYAN: INKER
UL HIGGINS: LETTERER
KEVIN TINSLEY: COLORIST
AMERICAN COLOR: SEPS
PROFESSOR FELDER: EDITOR
BOB HARRAS: CHIEF

OKAY, MAYBE IT ISN'T FOR EVERYONE.
MAYBE EVEN I WOULDN'T DO THIS IF I DIDN'T HAVE HEIGHTENED SENSES.
I MEAN, I'M NOT CRAZY...
...JUST BLIND!
--THANKS FOR SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH ME. BECAUSE OF YOU, IT'S NEVER LONELY IN THE WFSK EBONY TOWER...
I REALLY SHOULDN'T FEEL THIS GOOD-- I DIDN'T SLEEP VERY WELL AT ALL.
I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE LISTENING TO KAREN'S RADIO SHOW.
WHEN YOU CAN HEAR A WHISPER FROM A BLOCK AWAY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO NOTICE KAREN'S VOICE IN THE AIR BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND DAWN.
FROM PASSING CABS... THE JANITOR'S WALK-MAN... A DOZEN APARTMENTS IN OUR BUILDING ALONE...
MAKES IT HARD TO SLEEP.
IN A GOOD WAY.
A MILLION PEOPLE MAY BE WITH HER EVERY NIGHT BUT ONLY I GET TO BE WITH HER IN THE MORNING.
DON'T WANT TO BE LATE-- I'VE GOT A DATE WITH AN ANGEL.

SAYING GOOD MORNING... AND GOOD NIGHT!
AND... WE'RE OFF.
GREAT JOB, KAREN. GREAT, RIGHT, DOM?
SAME AS ALWAYS, RENNY.
BE RIGHT BACK-- GOTTA MAKE A JAVA RUN.
YEAH, SHE'S A GOOD KID... THAT KAREN. POURS HER HEART AN' SOUL INTO THE JOB..
BOSS'S GOT BIG PLANS FOR HER, THAT'S FOR SURE.
HOPE SHE CAN HANDLE IT. HATE TO SEE ANYTHING HAPPEN TO--
HEY, WATCHIT, BUDDY! WHAT ARE YA, BLI--
OH, SORRY. I DIDN'T--
YOU DIDN'T MAKE A WRONG TURN AND END UP IN A STORAGE ROOM LIKE I DID!
MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME. THE PLAN WAS TO SURPRISE MY GIRLFRIEND!

MATT?
MATT-- WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
SURPRISE, KAREN?
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU "PAIGE" WHILE YOU'RE AT WORK?
HEAR THAT, RENNY? THIS GUY KNOWS THE ANGEL'S WHATAYACALL, SECRET IDENTITY!
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
HER SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME, GENTLEMEN; I'VE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH THAT SORT OF THING...
HE MEANS BECAUSE HE'S A LAWYER!
MATT, THIS IS RENNY-- THE STATION MANAGER. YOU'VE ALREADY MET MY ENGINEER, DOM.
I ALMOST CAN'T HEAR THE INTRODUCTIONS, THEIR HEARTS RACE SO FAST WHEN THEY HEAR THE L-WORD!
WISH I COULD STAY, GENTLEMEN, BUT I CAME TO TAKE THIS ANGEL AWAY BEFORE SHE REVERTS TO KAREN PAGE!
HER CARRIAGE AWAITS!
Uh,... MATT? THE EXIT'S OVER HERE... TO MY LEFT...
OH, WELL... Ahem... LEAD THE WAY!
A LAWYER...
THE BOSS AIN'T GONNA LIKE IT, RENNY. AIN'T GONNA LIKE IT AT ALL...

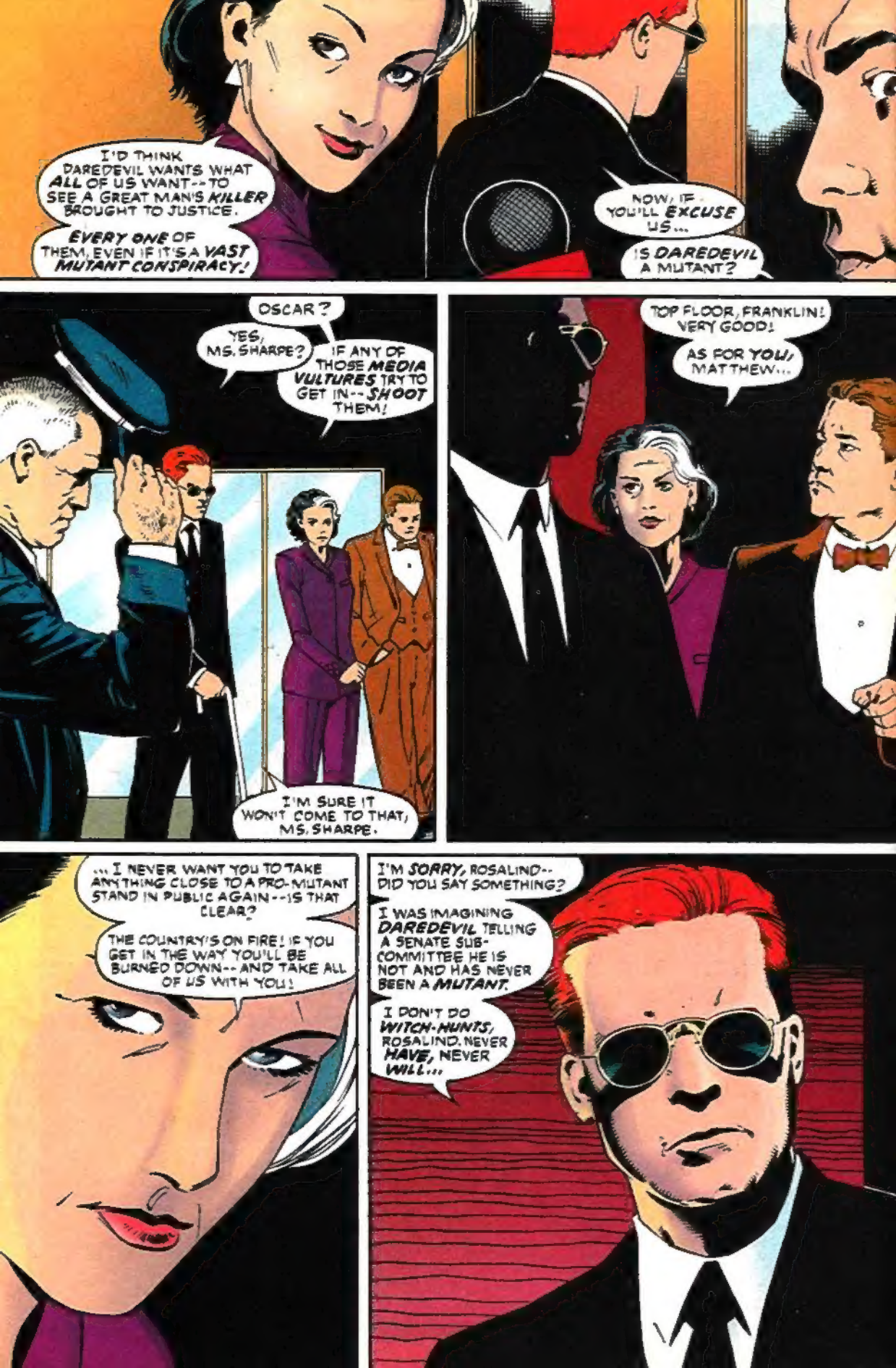
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE, MATT.
WELL, I HAD TO GET TO WORK SOMEHOW!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME IN THROUGH THE STOREROOM.
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU RAN INTO DOM--I DON'T KNOW IF RENNY WOULD'VE BELIEVED YOUR STORY.
I... WOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE EITHER OF THEM, KAREN.
ANY IDEA WHO REALLY RUNS THAT PLACE NOW THAT KINGPIN'S OUT OF THE PICTURE? REASON I ASK IS--
ATTENTION--THIS IS FOGGY NELSON, LAWYER AND PART-TIME CONSCIENCE SPEAKING.
YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR FINAL DESTINATION.
IN OTHER WORDS--TIME TO WORK, MATT!
WE'LL TALK LATER, KAREN.
C'MON! BREAK IT UP, YOU TWO! EVERYONE ON THE STREET'S GOING TO SEE!
THERE HE IS!
THIS WAY!
GET THAT CAMERA OVER HERE!
A FEW WORDS?
WHAT'D I TELL YOU, PARTNER?
DON'T WORRY, FOGGY--I CAN HANDLE THEM.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THIS SORT OF MEDIA CIRCUS EVER SINCE THE HYDE TRIAL...


MR. NELSON! HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN DAREDEVIL?
HUH--?
ARE YOU REALLY HIS PAL?
WHAT ARE HIS POWERS, EXACTLY?
HOW DO YOU CONTACT HIM? SOME SORT OF DEVIL-PHONE OR DEVIL-SIGNAL?
Um... WELL, I... I KNOW DD-- YEAH. AND I CAN USUALLY GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM EASY ENOUGH...

KATHLEEN ROND, WFSK, MR. NELSON.
WILL DD TRACK DOWN THE MUTANTS WHO ASSASSINATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GRAYDON CREED?
WELL, Um... IF DD CAN HELP, I'M SURE HE--

WHAT MR. NELSON MEANS IS DAREDEVIL WOULD HELP TRACK DOWN ANY MURDERER-- MAN, WOMAN, BLACK, WHITE OR MUTANT.
WHAT HE WOULDN'T DO-- AND WHAT NONE OF US SHOULD DO-- IS CONDEMN AND PERSECUTE AN ENTIRE GROUP BECAUSE OF THE ALLEGED ACTIONS OF A FEW!

EXCUSE ME--ROSALIND SHARPE, SENIOR PARTNER OF THE SHARPE, NELSON AND MURDOCK LAW FIRM. I WAS WALKING BY, AND WELL...
I'M CERTAIN MR MURDOCK IS NOWHERE NEAR AS QUALIFIED TO SPEAK ABOUT DAREDEVIL AS FRANKLIN IS.


I'D THINK DAREDEVIL WANTS WHAT ALL OF US WANT--TO SEE A GREAT MAN'S KILLER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.
EVERY ONE OF THEM, EVEN IF IT'S A VAST MUTANT CONSPIRACY!
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...
IS DAREDEVIL A MUTANT?
OSCAR?
YES, MS. SHARPE?
IF ANY OF THOSE MEDIA VULTURES TRY TO GET IN--SHOOT THEM!
I'M SURE IT WON'T COME TO THAT, MS. SHARPE.
TOP FLOOR, FRANKLIN! VERY GOOD!
AS FOR YOU, MATTHEW...
... I NEVER WANT YOU TO TAKE ANYTHING CLOSE TO A PRO-MUTANT STAND IN PUBLIC AGAIN--IS THAT CLEAR?
THE COUNTRY'S ON FIRE! IF YOU GET IN THE WAY YOU'LL BE BURNED DOWN--AND TAKE ALL OF US WITH YOU!
I'M SORRY, ROSALIND--DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
I WAS IMAGINING DAREDEVIL TELLING A SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE HE IS NOT AND HAS NEVER BEEN A MUTANT.
I DON'T DO WITCH-HUNTS, ROSALIND. NEVER HAVE, NEVER WILL...

WELL, MATTHEW--IT'S TOO BAD YOU CAN'T PUT ON A SKIN-TIGHT SUIT, FIND THE EVIL MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL THIS, AND MAKE PEOPLE SEE THINGS YOUR WAY.
BUT THEN, YOU'RE BLIND, AREN'T YOU?
HEY, YOU TWO--THIS IS GETTING KIND OF SILLY!
MATT--A SUPER HERO? HA! THAT'S AS GOOD AS ME BEING A...A GIANT TURTLE GUY!
YOU BETTER NOT MEAN MUTANT TURTLE, FOGGY!
IF YOU AND YOUR MOTHER THINK THIS WON'T AFFECT US, THEN YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO--
??
WHAT? WHAT IS IT, PARTNER?
A HEARTBEAT...
CHEAP THEATRICS, FRANKLIN--FORTUNATELY WE AREN'T AS EASILY IMPRESSED AS MATTHEW'S JURIES ARE!
GOOD MORNING, SUNNY. ANY MESSAGES?
NOT CURRENTLY, MS. SHARPE--ALTHOUGH MR. NELSON HAS A VISITING GUEST.
LIZ OSBORN?
...SLOW AND STRONG AND STEADY LIKE THE MUFFLED BOOM OF AN OLD BASEMENT BOILER.

'FRAID NOT, PAL! WILL HER STEP-BROTHER DO?
MARK RAXTON--BUT MAYBE YA KNOW ME BETTER AS THE MOLTEN MAN!
I OVERSEE THE DAY-TO-DAY AT OSBORN CHEMICALS FOR SIS, FOGGY--DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU FOGGY, DO YOU?
NO! YOU, Um... CAN CALL ME ANYTHING YOU WANT!
SO... Um... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
MAYBE YOU HEARD--BEEN A FEW ROBBERIES AT THE PLANT LATELY.
NOW, MY CRIMINAL PAST AIN'T NO SECRET, BUT I'M WORKIN' HARD TO PUT THOSE DAYS BEHIND ME. I GOT NOTHIN' TA DO WITH THIS--NOTHIN'.
'COURSE THE BOARD DON'T BELIEVE THAT!
THEY'RE TRYIN' TA FORCE ME OUT, FOGGY! WHERE'LL I GO THEN, huh? WHAT'LL I DO THEN?
I GOTTA PROVE I'M INNOCENT--BUT IF I'M SPOTTED ANYWHERE NEAR THOSE CRIME SCENES...
SSSS
I'M JAMMED UP AN' WITH THE F.F. AN' AVENGERS GONE, YA KNOW? AN' DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON SPIDER-MAN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TA DO! I'M FEELIN' TRAPPED...

...THEN SIS TELLS ME YOU'RE IN TIGHT WITH THE HORNHEAD!
YOU MEAN, Um... DAREDEVIL?
YEAH, WELL, I, Um... I GUESS I...
FRANKLIN WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP, MR. RAXTON
HOPEFULLY NOT THE LAST FAVOR OUR FIRM WILL DO FOR YOU...OR YOUR COMPANY.
YA DON'T GOTTA WORRY 'BOUT THAT--NOT FROM WHAT SIS TELLS ME!
Eh, FOGSTER?
UNNG! WELL... I... Um... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY--
PLEASE, MR. RAXTON, LET'S NOT MIX BUSINESS AND...
...PLEASURE.
I'M CERTAIN FRANKLIN CAN HAVE THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR ON THE JOB IN NO TIME!
I'M CERTAIN HE CAN TOO ROSALIND--BUT DAREDEVIL DOESN'T WORK FOR THIS LAW FIRM.
...AND I SUGGEST YOU NEVER FORGET THAT!

EIGHTEEN HOURS LATER, AND THE BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH ISN'T JUST FROM THE OSBORN PLANT'S RANCID SMOKE.
THE MORNING KEEPS REPLAYING IN MY MIND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD -- "RAZOR" SHARPE IN FINE FORM.
OSBORN CHEMICAL
WITHOUT A DOUBT, SHE'S ONE OF THE MOST MANIPULATIVE AND HEARTLESS PEOPLE I'VE EVER MET.
NO WONDER KINGPIN NEVER EXPANDED HIS CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION INTO HER HOMETOWN OF BOSTON.
THE WHOLE "DAREDEVIL'S PAL, FOGGY NELSON" THING -- IT'S CLEAR RAZOR ISN'T INTERESTED IN HELPING FOGGY...
I COULD STOP IT EASILY ENOUGH, BUT AFTER ALL THE YEARS I KEPT FOGGY IN THE DARK ABOUT ME BEING DAREDEVIL...
...I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO DIM HIS TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT. I OWE HIM THAT MUCH.
WHICH IS WHY I PUSH ALL THOUGHTS ASIDE WHEN THE MIDNIGHT WHISTLE BLOWS
RAXTON SAYS THE ROBBERIES OCCUR BETWEEN SHIFTS WHILE THE WAREHOUSES ARE NEARLY EMPTY.
IT'S OVER BEFORE SECURITY CAN RESPOND
OF COURSE, SOMETHING TELLS ME THEY DON'T RESPOND TOO QUICKLY SINCE THE PERP CAN...
...TEAR THROUGH SOLID STEEL DOORS.
SKRAWGK
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE AVON CALLING
FWIKK

OKAY, FORGET WHAT I SAID BEFORE -- THIS IS THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SUPER HERO.
SUSPENDED IN THE AIR FOR A SPLIT-SECOND, THERE'S A FEELING OF ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY.
THAT I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING. THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS -- I'LL FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AND TRY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE A LITTLE BETTER THAN I FOUND IT.
THIS IS VASTLY PREFERABLE TO THE BEAT-UP-AND-BRUISED FEELING I USUALLY HAVE AFTER A FIGHT, BELIEVE ME.
THEN THE WIND STARTS RUSHING PAST MY EARS...
...AND ALMOST THINK I HEAR SOMETHING.
SOMETHING I HAVEN'T HEARD IN A LONG TIME.
FEH! THESE COMMON THEFTS ARE BENEATH ME! IF ONLY I DID NOT NEED THE MONEY TO REBUILD MY LABORATORY!
BUT AFTER TONIGHT, I WILL HAVE PROCURED ALL THE CHEMICALS MY EMPLOYER REQUIRES...
...AND IF HE DOES NOT PAY, IT IS HE WHO WILL KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF FEAR!
HE WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE!
WHO--?

LET ME GIVE YOU A FEW CLUES-- BLACK COSTUME, WIDOW'S STING, WAS THE LAST LEADER THE AVENGERS EVER HAD..
NNG!
TZZAK
AH! THE INFAMOUS BLACK WIDOW!
I HAD PRESUMED YOU DEAD ALONG WITH YOUR COMPATRIOTS...
...BUT THE MISTAKE IS YOURS IF YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN THWART THE GREY GARGOYLE!
...WHILE YOU STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST A MAN WHOSE TOUCH CAN TURN ANYTHING TO STONE!
YOUR PITIFUL STINGS ARE MERE ANNOYANCES TO ME...

I'M SCARED.
KWOONGH
THE CHEMICALS!
YOU TRICKED ME INTO DESTROYING THEM!
KREMSCHH
MAYBE IT WAS THE WIDOW'S CURSE, GARGOYLE YOU KNOW--SOONER OR LATER I DESTROY ANYONE OR ANYTHING I'M NEAR!
OR MAYBE YOU'RE JUST NOT VERY SMART...
HOW I LOVE A WOMAN WITH A CRUEL SMILE!
ALLOW ME TO PRESERVE THIS MOMENT FOREVER IN STONE!
ONE SIMPLE TOUCH AND--
SHE'LL HAVE A COMPLEXION NOT EVEN OIL OF OLAY COULD HELP!
NOTHING PERSONAL--BUT I THINK SHE'S IN MUCH BETTER HANDS WITH ME!

JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE PARTNERS, huh, NATASHA?
THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOUR HEARTBEAT EARLIER-- AND, OF COURSE, THE PERFUME IS... WELL, IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
CAME BY YOUR PLACE A FEW DAYS AGO. YOU WEREN'T IN. THAT WAS RIGHT AFTER...
MATT?
GUNH!
STAY OUT OF THIS! STAY OUT OF MY LIFE!
THE GARGOYLE'S MINE AND MINE ALONE!
WUNK
NICE...
KEKH
NICE SEEING YOU TOO.
INTERFERING FOOLS!
EVERYTHING WAS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY
KWOOM

LIFE'S NOT FAIR, GARGOYLE. TELL ME ABOUT IT.
ABOUT ALL ANYONE CAN DO IS TRY TO AVOID MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE!
TAKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE. YOU'RE A MISTAKE THE AVENGERS KEPT MAKING OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
I'M GOING TO CHANGE THAT...
NOT BEFORE I CHANGE THIS CATWALK TO STONE, WIDOW!
MUCH LESS RESILIENT THAN STEEL, YOU UNDERSTAND
IT CERTAINLY WON'T SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF MY STONE BODY, LET ALONE OUR COMBINED--
KRRRAK!
NICE TRY GARGOYLE, BUT I'LL JUST USE MY WIDOW'S LI--
--NNG!
WHUMM
AAH!

THE CURSE HAS FINALLY TURNED ON YOU, WIDOW
BUT THEN, IT IS ONLY FITTING IT SHOULD SAVE YOU FOR LAST!
GLOOMP
OKAY, IF YOU TWO CAN'T PLAY NICE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A TIME-OUT!
LEAST-- EGH,-- LEAST I WON'T DIE ALONE!
COME... AND GET ME!
WHO...?
I'M... Um... THE HULK! YEAH, THAT'S IT! BET YOU'RE REALLY SCARED NOW, Huh?
TAKE THAT, PUNY HUMAN!
HA! JUST TOYING WITH YOU!
WAK
IT'S REALLY DARK IN HERE, RIGHT?
DAREDEVIL!
THE DARKNESS WILL NOT PROTECT YOU FROM ME!
WHEN I GET AHOLD OF YOU--
SPEAKING OF HOLDING...

FWAMING
..HOLD THAT POSE!
PLOOSH
NOOOO!
SHUMP
Y'KNOW, THOSE VILLAIN UPDATES THE UNION SENDS OUT? THEY NEVER MENTIONED HOW FAST THE GARGOYLE CHANGES THINGS INTO STONE!
THAT'S IMPORTANT, DON'T YOU THINK? SO WE CAN AVOID EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS...
...LIKE THIS ONE.
LOOKS LIKE IT'LL TAKE A WOMAN'S TOUCH TO GET ME OUT OF HERE...OR YOUR WIDOW'S STING, AT LEAST.
AFTER YOU BLAST A BREATHING HOLE IN THIS MODERN WORK OF ART, OF COURSE.

WHY BOTHER?
I'M NOT SAYING TEACH HIM THE MACARENA, NATASHA-- I'M SAYING IT MIGHT BE NICE IF HE COULD BREATHE!
MAYBE THE AVENGERS WOULD STILL BE HERE IF PROBLEMS LIKE THE GARGOYLE WEREN'T!
AND MAYBE IT'D BE NICE IF HE DIDN'T KEEP COMING BACK!
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF DEATH IN MY TIME-- CAUSED MORE THAN MY SHARE OF IT, TOO ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, NATASHA. YOU'RE NOT A RUSSIAN SPY ANYMORE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN'T FADE INTO THE SHADOWS THIS TIME.
I DON'T WANT TO. I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
EVERY VILLAIN WHO EVER FOUGHT THE AVENGERS-- THEIR DAYS ARE NUMBERED. THEY'LL NEVER HURT ANYONE AGAIN
NOT WHILE I LIVE!
GOOD THING I KNOW YOU, NATASHA-- OR I'D ALMOST THINK THAT SOUNDED LIKE MURDER...
...OR SUICIDE!

WHATEVER IT TAKES
FOOLISH WOMAN!
YOU'VE MADE A FATAL MISTAKE IF YOU THINK THIS IS OVER!
NO GARGOYLE-- THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!
BUT IT ISN'T HOW THE AVENGERS WOULD WANT THEIR LEGACY CARRIED ON, NATASHA!
ONLY YOU CAN MOVE PAST THIS-- NO ONE CAN DO THAT FOR YOU
I'M THE SURVIVING WIDOW, DAREDEVIL-- I THINK IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE HOW TO HONOR THEIR MEMORY.
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME AND DON'T TRY TO HELP ME BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
...THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO ALONE!

THE COPS ARRIVE WITHIN THE HOUR AND TAKE THE GARGOYLE INTO CUSTODY.
THEY CHIP THE STONE OFF MY FOOT, BUT THAT DOESN'T GET NATASHA OFF MY MIND.
I THINK ABOUT GOING AFTER HER, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN I FIND HER.
I END UP AT THE OFFICE WITH SOME VAGUE IDEA OF DOING WORK OR LISTENING TO KAREN'S SHOW.
TRUTH IS, MY MIND'S A MILLION MILES AWAY...
Growf! Rarr! Rawf!
WHAT--?!
OH!
SEE YOU'VE MET YOUR ...UM... NEW SEEING EYE DOG!
Greff!
SEEING...?
FOGGY--I DON'T WANT A SEEING EYE DOG! I DON'T NEED A SEEING EYE DOG!
EXACTLY, MATT, WHICH IS WHY HE'LL ONLY PRETEND TO BE ONE!
HE'S REALLY A RETIRED POLICE DOG! HE CAN HELP YOU FIGHT CRIME WHEN YOU'RE DAREDEVIL!
MATT-- MEET DEUCE-- THE DEVIL-DOG!

DEUCE.
THE DEVIL-DOG?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NEITHER CAN I.
FOR THOSE OF US WHO JUST ARRIVED, FRANKLIN--IS THAT REALLY DAREDEVIL'S DOG?
Huh? OH... Um... HE WAS BUT... BUT DD JUST GAVE HIM TO...
FOGGY!
DAREDEVIL GAVE DEUCE TO FOGGY BECAUSE...
...WELL, FOGGY'S THE BEST FRIEND HE EVER HAD!
I SEE. WELL, WE WANT TO STAY ON DAREDEVIL'S GOOD SIDE, SO I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP THE MONGREL AROUND.
JUST REMEMBER--YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT, FRANKLIN. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, NOT MINE.
I'LL SEE YOU BOTH IN THE MORNING...
SORRY, MATT. I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOUSY WAY I'VE TREATED YOU LATELY...
Um... Nice Doggie...
Growf!
WE'VE BOTH DONE THINGS WE WISH WE HADN'T, FOGGY, BUT I MEANT WHAT I SAID--YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.
AND SOMETIMES IT TAKES DAYS LIKE TODAY TO REMIND ME THAT A FRIENDSHIP LIKE YOURS...
...IS BETTER THAN ANY PART OF BEING A SUPER HERO.
YOU... Um... HAVE ANY DOG BISCUITS ON YOU, MATT?
END.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016. Please include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

THE PROFESSOR ● EDITOR

PAUL TUTRONE ● ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOB HARRAS ● EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear James,

DAREDEVIL #358 is why I read comics. It had everything: great art, a great story and best of all, several interesting subplots that were quite entertaining. Thanks for the great issue. Keep producing them like this and I will DEFINITELY keep DD on my buy list.

Oh, by the way, I'm glad that DAREDEVIL is not one of the so-called "Heroes Reborn" titles. It's amazing what some solid storytelling and art can do for a title. As you can probably tell, I'm one of the "old-timers" (age 40) that isn't too thrilled about the decision to mess with some of the cornerstones of the Marvel Universe. Well, I want to keep this letter positive and short so again, keep up the good work.

John Bezold
10892 Beech Creek Drive
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Glad you like the book, John. Everybody here at Radar Central is doing their best to keep DD swingin'!

Dear Karl & Cary,

I love the new DAREDEVIL! Finally, Daredevil lives up to his true heroic potential! Cary Nord's artwork is so original! I can't even tell who his influences are! There's so much humor and fun in this book, I just can't contain myself!

Hey, how about another Hyde story? The last one was just so great!

Nick Keppler
(Address withheld by request)

Well don't contain yourself on our account, Nick! We love to hear high praise from a loyal Devilhead!

And as for Hyde—keep your bananas peeled—'cause the Zako-tastic mayhem's just starting. So stay tuned for more Hyde and go seek! (That wasn't too corny now, was it?)

Dear Devil's Advocate,

You never truly know how good something is until it's gone. That certainly was the case in DAREDEVIL #358. Karl Kesel and Cary Nord's absence was sorely missed. Stand-ins Joe Kelly and Pascual Ferry filled in quite admirably, but they just can't compare to the creative super team of Kesel and Nord. Oh, and the cover by Steve Epting was excellent.

Now it's Q & A time:

1. Will Daredevil appear in the new ELEKTRA series or vice versa?

2. Any chance of seeing any of these villains in the future: Scorpion, Sandman, Shocker, Bullseye, Hydro-Man, Blob, or the Hand?

That's it for now. Seeya in 30!

Sean Penrose
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Norwalk, OH 44857

Sorry that you missed Karl and Cary, Sean. If it's any consolation to you, they said they missed you, too! We're happy that you enjoyed our guest artist and writer, though. Joe Kelly will taking on the writing chores for the monthly merc-with-the-mouth DEADPOOL series. And Pascual Ferry's work can be seen on the new POWER CORPS debuting in May. It'll be written by Roger Stern and will feature Power Man, Iron Fist among others!

As for your questions . . .

There are no immediate plans for DD to be in Elektra. She's got her hands full without Matt interferring! As for the villains...only the future will tell!

Dear Devil's Advocates,

I just wanted to add my voice to the many that are singing the praises of the revamped, recharged DAREDEVIL! I left the fold many years ago, exhausted with the dreary and hopeless tones of the book. However, when I discovered that Karl Kesel would be writing the title (having been a big fan of his for his work with the competition), I jumped back on board. I have not been disappointed! I have no complaints whatsoever. Keep up the great work, guy!

Regarding issue #358: the use of Mysterio was wonderful. I was intrigued by how Marvel's Master of Illusions would be a threat to our blind hero, and I was impressed. Furthermore, I am enjoying the interplay between DAREDEVIL and the SPIDER-MAN titles. These characters have shared a great deal over the years, and I am appreciative that Kesel and Co. are continuing the tradition. The inclusion of Liz Osborne in this book is a stroke of brilliance. Just so the art crew doesn't feel slighted, let me add that I have never seen a better looking Mysterio. A fantastic job all around.

In regard to the villains, how about the return of Stilt-Man (I know, I know—but he's one of my childhood favorites), the Unholy Trio, the Leap-Frog, and/or the Matador? I would also love to see ol' Hornhead team up with Spider-Man against the Sinister Syndicate (you know, the Beetle, Boomerang, the Rhino, Speed Demon, and Hydro-Man), or maybe fight them on his own.

After rereading my letter, I feel like a fanboy again. It's a feeling I haven't felt in a long time and one that feels great! Keep up the good work.

Justin Dunnuck
(Address withheld by request)

Glad we could be of service, Justin. We aim to please. As to all the villains — they'll be in the next issue...on page three...in panel six! Just kidding (we think)!!

Dear Professor,

It took you a while but you finally made it. DD is worthy of its legend again. The title sure had its ups and downs, but this time you actually brought back poor Matt from the dead . . . figuratively this time. Let's keep it this way. So far in my long career as a comics reader I never found it necessary to write to any comic book. That's because every time the stories were good, well . . . I just didn't feel like intruding upon the writer's fantasies. And that's the way things ought to be: let the writers have it their own way.

When the stories begun to disappoint me I just stopped paying any attention. But now, the word's out that DAREDEVIL is back to being one of the best again!

The stories are now great, the long lost humor is back with the old costume, the monologues have true depth, the dialogues seem human and ordinary (but not boring), and the artwork makes us wonder what we will see in the future. Cary is not the best, but he sure can be one of them in a short while. To cut a long story short, I like what I see, and I've seen a lot in my time.

Harry Giovanopoulos
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Greece

Praise all the way from Greece! We get a big kick out of getting mail from around the world — keep it coming! The first letter from Antarctica gets a prize!

NEXT ISSUE: A secret from "Razor" Sharpe's past threatens the future of the Murdock, Nelson and Sharpe firm! Karl, Cary and Matt keep the hits coming in just thirty days!

BEAST CHARMING
Perenially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!
HUMBLE CONTRIBUTOR TO #THECOMICRACK
Queries? Requests? Contact me at BeastCharming@yahoo.com
Pledged to scan all series great and small...